



## WORKSHOP 'EUROPE IN PRISONS'



European prison systems and the use of imprisonment as a punishment have been given a great deal of attention in recent years. The study of imprisonment in Europe usually takes a more or less comparative approach, that is, it aims to document and analyze similarities and differences in terms of law, policy, penal rationalities, prison conditions, and so on. Often a country-specific approach is being applied whereby (native) authors with a great deal of expertise about their respective prison system report and reflect on the key characteristics and developments and, if possible, on how this national system fits within a broader penal system and relates to wider developments in society. One could call this a 'prisons in Europe'-approach.

In this workshop we adopt a somewhat different approach, that is, a 'Europe in prisons'-perspective. Such a perspective shifts scholarly attention to a somewhat different set of research questions which aims to explore the multiple ways in which Europe penetrates local prisons systems, e.g.: What has been the impact – if any – of major European institutions (in particular, the European Court of Human Rights and the European anti-torture Committee) on prison policy-making and daily life in prisons throughout Europe? How have ideas been transferred from key judicial and policy-making institutions and expert networks based in Strasbourg and Brussels into local prison systems? How do European tendencies influence and impact upon prison systems in third states (either candidate states or states at the frontiers of Europe)? To what extent are the European views on imprisonment 'exported' to other (inter- and supranational) contexts? What theoretical and conceptual tools can be used and developed to guide and promote empirical research? How can insights and research from political science and European studies (such as – but not limited to – the literature on policy transfer, Europeanisation and cosmopolitanisation) be made fruitful to advance a European penological research agenda on the growing role – and potential or actual impact – of Europe on penal theory and practice in member states?

This workshop forms part of a two-year research project '*Degradation, civilization and denial: a European and comparative perspective on punishment*' which is funded by the Research Council of KU Leuven. This project aims inter alia to explore what kind of responses state authorities formulate to the implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and recommendations of the CPT in relation to matters of penal policy and how such responses vary across European jurisdictions.

**Organisation: research line 'Punishment and Control', LINC, KU Leuven**

# PROGRAMME

## Thursday 10 December 2015

### Session 1 (14.00 – 15.30h)

*Introduction to the workshop: Europe in prisons – an agenda for research*

Tom Daems (University of Leuven) & Luc Robert (NICC)

*Monitoring prisons: the increasingly complex relationship between international and domestic frameworks*

Christine Bicknell (University of Exeter) & Malcolm Evans (University of Bristol)

*Domestic implementation of ECtHR judgments on prison conditions in Europe*

Dia Anagnostou (ELIAMEP) & Dimitris Skleparis (ELIAMEP)

### Session 2 (15.45 – 17.15h) (Spain and Norway)

*Is there a gap between European prison policies and Spanish prison practices?*

Josep Cid (Universitat Autònoma Barcelona) & Ariadna Andreu (Universitat Autònoma Barcelona)

*Best in class? Norwegian prisons and the pragmatic production of legitimacy*

Thomas Horn (University of Oslo) & Thomas Ugelvik (University of Tromsø)

## Friday 11 December 2015

### Session 3 (9.30 – 11h) (Belgium and Poland)

*Europe in Belgian prisons*

Tom Daems (University of Leuven) and Luc Robert (NICC)

*Lifers and long-term prisoners – challenge to the Polish prison system?*

Maria Nielaczna (Warsaw University)

### Session 4 (11.15 – 12.30h)

*Howard travels. A prison tour across Europe*

Tom Vander Beken (Ghent University)

*Comparative and concluding observations*

Tom Daems (University of Leuven) & Jonas Visschers (University of Leuven)